Scots in of Biography Australian Dictionary the

Melanie Nolan

cultural heritage in Australia Growing interest in Scottish

had been overlooked till now in the that, Professor Ewan was interested in women not in the BDSW. In aid of brief biographical information on create a website which will contain BDSW and plans are now uderway to National University (ANU). Women's Social Sciences (RSSS), the Australian scholar in the nary of Biography (ADB) as a visiting recently visited the Australian Dictioacademic editors of the Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women (BDSW), Professor Elizabeth Ewan, one of the 'Scottish women' in Australia who Scotland Research School of sponsored the

are important resources for historical and information about the past and eral are vast storehouses of knowledge Dictionaries of biography in gen-

> biographical list. women in Australia to add to the new mentation, ate, as it were, with splendid docuand unpublished material to repatriand marriage certificates. Professor information, including birth, death Ewan was able to use the ing process and contain a wealth of These files are generated in the editand are available for public access. ly transferred to the ANU Archives research files, which have been recenttion to the articles, the ADB also has history from the 16th century. In addiothers who played a part in Australia's 11,500 biographies on Australians and and has generated the publication of in existence for nearly five decades begin her research. The ADB has been obvious place for Professor Ewan to History Program, RSSS, ANU, was an research. The ADB, located in the many more published Scottish

> > history are developing in tandem genealogy and Scottish-Australian family histories written by Australians metropolis has by the many and growing numbers of within the Antipodes as is evidenced growing interest is Empire' is but one work about the Scottish diaspora, of the English but less than the Irish. The Such interest is part of a recent wider interest in the Scots in Australia who have now been more studied than Scottish women ancestry. Ħ, recently also index. But this the occurring 'Scottish generated Scottish

with Scottish cultural heritage The ADB and identifying subjects

ond, Scottish, ancestry ancestry, another 4% reported a secpopulation who reported Australian having Scottish ancestry, a three-fold lion Australians, or 8%, reported reporting Scottish ancestry 2001. Furthermore, of the 37% of the increase from a previous census good example of this. In 2006 1.5 milcontemporary perceptions. Those response to immigration trends and to ancestry have changed over time gender, for instance, has not. gory that has evolved in ways that Of course cultural heritage is a cate-Ideas of are Ħ ಬ

itage in the past and those reporting grants, those reporting cultural hercultural heritage now, the ADB is well-On any terms, numbers of immi-

achievements encapsulate viduals whose lives and past, less well-known indiluminaries of Australia's than a pantheon of great itself over the years for the some principles of selecsubjects. There have been women. As extent to which it is more tion. The ADB has prided in the process of selecting heritage, a consideration ned as having Scottish tish-born, or who identiof those who were ceived, was the proportion since the late 1950s, when itage. Certainly at no time influenced by present consubjects'. To a large extent the ADB project was conthis is accidental because represented with 'Scottish ADB has not been and, over cultural increasingly, well as her-

Macdonald, Amelia Morrison Fraser (1865 - 1946) G (A-Z) MacDonald, Allan Nicoli (1892 - 1978) AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY Home | Advanced Search | Browse | About | Contact | Help (A-Z) Macdonald, Benjamin Wickham (1853 - 1920) E MA

17 June 1865. Blackburn 바 Linlithgowshire, Scotland

Death: 31 August 1946, Subjaco, Perth, Western Australia, Australia Cultural Heritage: Scottish

<u>Presbyterian</u> Religious Influence:

<u>Theosophist</u>

Occupation: caté_owner tailor/tailoress Girl Guides' leader social reformer

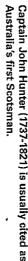
> Western Australia. Amella opened a café in Barrack Street, Perth, which continued to operate until 1913. Her orphaned 19-year-old niece Isabella Millar had Joined the childless couple in 1910; Bonnie Brae at Gien Forrest was their home from 1916 she married with the forms of the Church of Scotland Aexander Parkinson Macdonald (d.1937), a steamship steward and caterer. They emigrated to Sydney where, for nine years, she old, her mother died, and she worked as a seamstress to support herself and her sister. At West Govan on 2 August 1886 1865 at Blackburn, Linithgowshire, Scotland, eider daughter of Peter Fraser, cooper, and his wife Isabella, née McRae, Amelia MACDONALD, AMELIA MORRISON FRASER (1865-1946), social reformer and women's activist, was born on 17 June ran a tailoring business. In 1896 the Macdonalds moved to attended school at Govan, Glasgow. When she was 11 years Amelia

With other newly enfranchised women—among them <u>Jean</u> <u>Image Delais</u>
<u>Beaglie, Muriel, Chase, Edith Cowan, Roberta Juli</u> and <u>Bessile</u>
<u>Bischbieth</u>—Mrs Macdonald was committed to widespread reform. A long-term member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and, later, an Anglican Sunday School teacher, she joined the Perth branch of the Theosophical Society and became its treasurer in 1902. The society's ideals of spiritual force, service, social reform, universal education and equal citizenship were



Amelia Morison Fraser Macdonald (1865 - 1948), by unknown photographer, courtesy of State Library of Western Australia.







Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824)

nificance and worth. Reviewers of the those who were born in Scotland or recently of the Australian states, and more much consultation and co-operation inclusion has been 'the result ed. The selection of ADB subjects for emergent nation' every front of our experience as an tive of endeavour and achievement on Hancock, people `widely representain the words of its architect, Sir Keith aspects of the Australian experience who made up the British stream of tle attention has been given to those graphical debate more generally. Litmatters of political and historioelite, poor and ordinary, have been men and women, indigenous, rich and included. Indeed, the proportions of riginals but not the number of Scots ative proportions of women or Abo-ADB, in turn, have considered the reldental to other considerations of sigwho identified as Scottish was inciworking parties; the proportion of especially by working parties in each emigration to colonies. Commonwealth thematic have been includ-9

Until recently no-one even counted the number of *ADB* subjects who had Scottish backgrounds. It was difficult to do so. This changed in 2006 when the *ADB* went online. With advanced searching one can put the data in the *ADB* to uses not consid-

and 142 females are recorded as havwere born in Scotland, that is just over supplementary volume. Of that numcles in seventeen volumes and one ethnicities represented in 11,526 articultural heritage' is one the sixty-seven search ADB articles to discover subered when the project was begun in most reckonings the Scottish were shadowed by the English and Irish to observe that the Scottish were overgins. Historically, it is commonplace in the mantle of British cultural oriis true for all groups subsumed withappear in the early volumes. But that those with Scottish cultural heritage number of the Scottish-born and need to be contextualised and a great 13% of all entries. Figures of course ing Scottish cultural heritage, just over 7% of all entries. A total of 1358 males ber 770 males and thirty-nine females representation of the Scottish is an lect of the Irish and the relative overheritage, only 12% have Irish culturrecorded as having English cultural ever, while group in the 19th century after the Australia's third largest immigrant Australians in Australian history; by tish cultural heritage. The relative negal heritage, less than those with Scot-English and Irish. In the ADB, howethnic background. For example, one can now 38.5% of subjects are 'Scottish

issue that may require further investigation. The construction of identity in
the colonial experience in Australia
was not simply about whites and Aborigines. Whether the settlers were English, Scots, or Irish and the balance
between these groups, numerically as
well as culturally, is significant. Their
representation in the *ADB* is a matter
of historiographical interest.

The ADB and collective biographies of Scottish Australians

If one wishes to measure the importance or meaning of Scottish immigration culturally and across time, collective biography is a useful tool. It also contextualises the individual within the contribution of a broader group. A brief survey of three of the waves of Scottish settlers in Australia reveals some of the strengths and weaknesses of the *ADB* as a source of the collective biography of those with Scots heritage.

1. We know that Scots arrived in Australia with the First Fleet in 1788. Captain John Hunter (1737-1821) is usually cited as Australia's first Scotsman. He arrived with Arthur Phillip in 1788 and succeeded him as Governor of New South Wales (NSW) in 1795.

female Scottish convicts. there are a number of male Scottish convicts in the ADB, there are no many of them were prostitutes. While prostitutes were among the ported to the antipodes. Long-time and serious' offenders were transported Scottish 'recidivists': 9.3% of separate from that of England and Wales and only 'hardened, repetitive Scots. The Scottish legal system was population or 8,207 and English ones; 5% of the convict were fewer Scottish convicts than Irish are not so well-represented. There 150,000 transported to Australia were On the other hand, Scottish convicts NSW politicians were also Scottish. Brisbane (1773-1860). 1824) and Sir Thomas Macdougall General Lachlan Macquarie, (1762of NSW were Scots: Hunter, Major-Indeed, three of the first six governors convicts were Scottish and of the total Many early trans-

2. Between 1832 and 1850 there was a wave of Scottish unassisted migrants, about 25,000 in total, or about 20 – 25% of the total. John Dunmore Lang (1799-1878), a Presbyterian clergyman born at Greenock, Scotland, arrived in Australia in 1823 and set about estab-

Lang's school and became the first mayor of Brisbane. Among the who established a building and conson, John Petrie, tracting business, and whose eldest such as Andrew Petrie (1798-1872), number, medical practitioner. Among this ufactured blacking and sold housejamin Cribb (1807-1874), who mantradesmen hold appliances and matches, ities to develop activities spurred the colonial authorthem to Moreton Bay in 1845. Lang's Cribb (1805-1893), There tradesmen, and organized three ships, majority of them Presbyterian Scottish selected about 600 emigrants, many Catholics in Queensland. Lang Fortitude, keen to counteract what he saw as too form of convictism or bonded labour reinstituted in the 1840s. He was also cultural labourers, sought to have a Queensland) who, desperate for agri-Moreton he saw a solution funded emigration of mechanics and Lang had experimented in privately lishing the Scots Church in Sydney. are Challinor (1814?-1882), too, were Scots emigrants Chaseley and Lima, to take Brisbane. emigrants like Robert)5-1893), a baker, Benarticles on Вау assisted was educated at won) for squatters in Among the Lang passages. Brisbane, and and the

> arust. was George Russell Drysdale the in Australia. Her great-great-nephew conspicuous amongst female squatters Australia for health reasons, and was in Scotland, decided to emigrate to dale had farmed on her own account ed in the article pleton in the ADB but she is includacre run. There is no article on Tem-William Forlonge (1811-1890). Drys-Melbourne, where she had a 10,000 Sydney, NSW) but later moved of capital on the chartered Czar in no sheep, and a considerable amount nine children, employees, some meria widow from Glasgow, brought her 1830. She settled in Parramatta (near women free emigrants were Drysdale (1792-1853) and Templeton (1785-1857). Templeton, on her nephew and Janet Anne

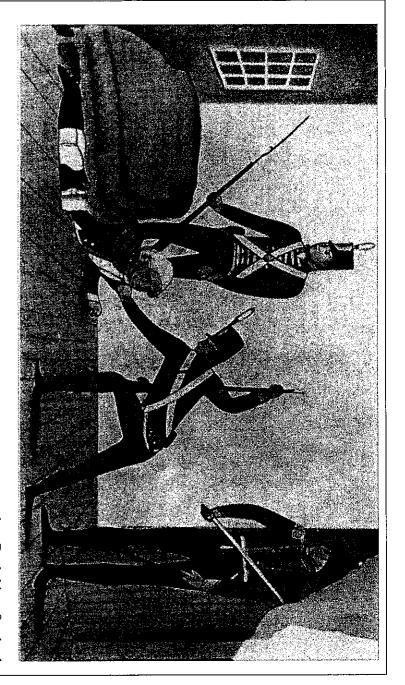
3. Between the 1830s and 1850s about 14,000 (15%) of the approximately 89,000 government-assisted immigrants who arrived in Australia were Scottish. Among them were the famous 'Scottish Mechanics', comprising fifty-four adult men plus their families: stonemasons and bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, blacksmiths, plasterers and so on. James Campbell (1830-1904) was born at Auchter-

Andrew Petrie (1798-1872), who established a building and contracting business





HISTORY SCOTLAND - JULY/AUGUST 2009

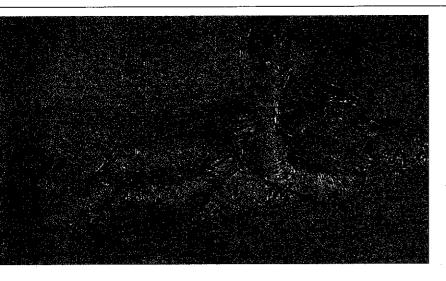


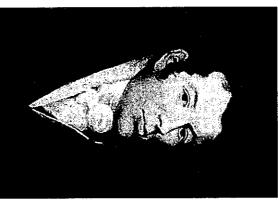
lion. See entry: (above) The arrest of Govenor William Bligh - scene from the Rum rebellion. (right) John Macarthur (1767?-1834), one of the leaders of the Rum Rebel-

www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020133b.htm

(below) Thomas Muir (1765-1799) one of the group of political convicts, the 'Scottish Martyrs' of 1792, See entry: who came to Australia on board the *Surprize*.

www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020231b.htm





arder, (1871-1949) developed. son Charles William Campbell Campbell & Sons, which his founded Brisbane in 1853. In 1882, he took an assisted He trained as a plasterer and Perthshire, the firm passage Scotland. James

networks The ADB and associational

cultural heritage is only part of those identifying with Scottish portion of Scottish-born or counting the number and profamous individuals. Of course of Scots in Australia as well as important waves and clusters It is clear that there were

social history. Among the difficulties in researching Scots in Australian of the survival of Scottish identity over generations. for discovering more about Scottish Australians and the fraught issue in Australia more difficult than those who crossed the Atlantic and setlikely to be more complex assessments of cultural contribution and ethnicity used to be embodied and was largely demographic; now it is the ADB's coverage of Scottish Australians. Indeed, much research on the process of assessing both the Scots' contribution to Australia and tled in the United States. The ADB Online however is a good resource history is the absence of census schedules, which makes tracking Scots

struct network ties on the basis of links ADB authors already provide. alised yet, despite it being online. At some stage, we hope to be able to ses of these networks of individuals in the ADB. Take for example John tralians. Then one could generate visualisations and other types of analytralians with a common cultural heritage, for example, Scottish Ausexamine embedded relationships in the ADB articles, that is, to conversial lieutenant in the New South Wales Corps, who was wounded in Macarthur (1767?-1834), son of two expatriate Scots, and a contro-One would be able to follow social and organisational networks of Aus-The advanced searching and indexing capacity of the ADB is unre-

and analyze ADB subject networks online in the future point yet searching has not developed to this settlement of NSW and networks and tracing wider organizational and associational webs in the has the potential for identifying social al webs can be drawn from tracing the arrived in NSW in 1790 and is credited with the founding of the wool industry in Australia. There are sev-ADB articles. Establishing such links Scottish Australians and associationfarming, the wool industry, and com-(1778-1817) who are, in turn, linked (1785-1869), and Garnham Blaxcell links in his article are to Samuel Marsfamily in the ADB. Three non-family articles to him enty-three 1810) in 1801 and was one of the duel with William Paterson (1755 others (1765-1838), generally. Advanced digitized but we hope to be able to map Some of these links between of, - it all has to be done manhyper-links associated with and his rum Walter Davidson rebellion. from other immediate Australia public

Scottish Australians and Australian Scots?

Of course people and culture were not simply or only transferred from the metropolis to the colony. We are all sensitive to the complex relationship across and between colonies and metropolis in the wake of work by Catherine Hall and others. As Hall argues:

[...] the idea that colonies and their peoples were made by the colonizers was of course nothing new: what was new was the argument that this relation went both ways, even if in unequal relations of power.

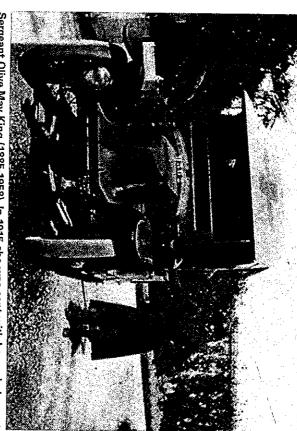
Hall makes clear that events in both locations 'affected each other, shaped what happened and defined what was possible'. This is an important aspect of the diaspora of British colonizers too.

Take for instance the group of political convicts, the 'Scottish Martyrs' of 1792, who came to Australia on board the Surprize. They are represented in the ADB by Maurice Margarot (1745-1815), William Skirving (d.1796), and Thomas Muir (1765-1799). Their lives reveal as much about contemporary Scottish politics

as they do about Australian society. The five martyrs inspired Robert Burns' patriotic 1793 effusion 'Scots Wha Hae'. Margarot returned to Britain in 1810 and was a witness before the 1812 parliamentary committee on transportation.

In terms of women, for example, we can see a two-way relationship between Australia and Scotland during war. A group of Australian women

mittee member of the Caledonian Society from its inception in 1861 and of the Queensland Scottish Association and visited Scotland again once he had migrated. The challenge for historians is not just to identify individuals and groups of Scottish Australians, to count them, to measure their contribution to Australian society but also to decide the extent to which we can discuss Scottish, Australian society but also to decide the extent to



Memorial) Sergeant Olive May King (1885-1958). In 1915 she was sent with her ambulance to France as part of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service. (Australian War

and WWII. Australians in Scotland during WWI and Laura Margaret Hope (1868cent Sylvia Armstrong (1888-1973), 1952). They are among a cluster of Olive May King (1885-1958), Milli-Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Dalyell (1881-1948), Stella Maria let Cooper (1861-1947), Elsie Jean na De Garis (1881-1963), Lilian Viocomb (1854-1942), Mary Clementi-(1858-1938), Harriet Christina New-(1872-1960), Margaret Emily Hodge vice: Agnes Elizabeth Lloyd Bennett were involved with Women's Hospitals for Foreign Serthe Scottish

scots patriot all his life, was a comstereotype of James Campbell, menent Scottishness covers a range of differyears outside of Australia. Moreover, spent long periods in the next forty arrived in Australia in 1790 but he were Jacobite refugees from Argyll. He was born in England to parents who from straightforward. It is difficult, for classify John Macarthur as a Scot. He instance, to decide whether or not to Assigning cultural heritage is far practices. Not all follow the

tralian and Scottish Australian identities and what they meant in the context of diaspora and migration history. The *ADB* is a good and accessible place to start this enquiry.

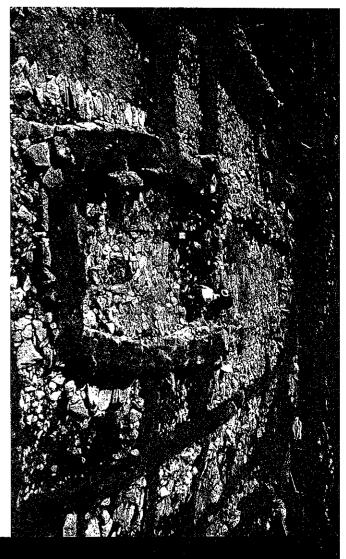
Professor Melanie Nolan is General Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB) and Director of the National Centre of Biography (NCB), RSSS, Australian National University, Canberra. There are ten staff in the NCB and a number assisted with this review article, including Dr Janet Doust, Dr Gail Clements, and Pam Crichton.

Entries on subjects named in the text can be found at www.adb.online.anu.edu.au
The ADB files are located at the ANU archives.

Further reading

Jim Hewitson, Far Off in Sunlit Places: Stories of the Scots in Australia and New Zealand (Edinburgh, 1998).

Malcolm Prentis, *The Scots in Australia* (Sydney, 2008).



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send to editorial@historyscotland.com or mail to: Editor, History Scotland magazine, PO Box 28269, Edinburgh, EH9 1ZH History Scotland welcomes "letters to the editor" for possible publication. We are to articles published in the magazine. Please particularly interested in letters responding for possible publication. We are

> and on Scotland's sometimes troubled relationships with its organisers, James Hunter, reflects on the emigration experience small country changed the world. Here one of the conference's its consequences, is entitled Scotland's Global Impact: How one coming, the conference, dealing principally with emigration and One of the signature events of Scotland's Year of Homeacross the world will attend a conference in Inverness. etween October 22 and October 24 this year people from

call out, "Come on boys, here's soon I heard a soldier's voice awake,' the chaplain wrote, 'and of American soldiers to a warships then carrying thousands the Liverpool-bound troopan army chaplain aboard one of day' in the early part of 1918, described as 'a truly wonderful lines to his wife back home in Towards the close of what he Europe, scribbled a few Quite early

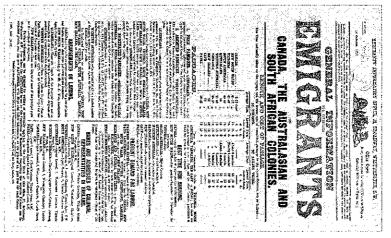
over the sides ... my own forefathers ed ... towards the west. And leaning far ry ago, the old sailboat with prow headfancy I saw, more than a centuwas; great old hills ... planted here and there with farms. In after all, a dream. But there it wondered long if it were not, come by Scotland. I was almost overwas none other than Bonnie foreign land I ever laid eyes on 'And what was more, this first my emotions and

above all price. I have seen Scotland! retain the recollection of as a treasure was a sight I shall never forget, but shall 'After a century or more, a son of theirs greets these same old hills ... It bit of their homeland

straining to see as long as they could a

same mission' good many' other young men from sevgrandfather had left in 1802. On the to Skye - which his emigrant greatfrom London, where he was stationed, peace now restored, McLeod travelled McLeod reported, Kyle to Portree, the Texan met with 'a Angus McLeod. A year or so later, with Lochalsh, and on the steamer from This American's name was William different countries from Inverness as himself. uo, to Kyle who much were, the of

and all of them granted a few days leave thousands of their compatriots died, Western Front killing grounds where Those men, all of them survivors of boarding the



National Archives of Scotland. Licenson www.scran.ac.uk)

or more generations. handed down through three, four, five whose names their faraway families had before emptied the word is not too strong – to villages and townships, some of them long they had chosen to make pilgrimages first glimpsed the whelmed William McLeod when he feelings similar to those that over-English city. Instead, spurred on by Europe amid the bright lights of some their last few days and nights in might have been expected to spend Canada, Australia or New would take them home to the U.S., entirely of Scottish coastline, Zealand, people,

I was told how, when this old man was an old man in the Kilbride area of Skye, Some sixty years on from 1919, by

over the Hebrides - Barra, Eriskay, South who are heading for Canada aboard 'Mar-loch'. The 300 emigrants came from all good-bye to their friends and families, Uist and Benbecula. (Newsquest [Herald & (opposite) People of Lochboisdale waving